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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/659,138	09/10/2003	Ekambaram Balaji	03-0772 1496.00319	3030
24319	7590	07/27/2005	EXAMINER LN, SUN J	
LSI LOGIC CORPORATION 1621 BARBER LANE MS: D-106 MILPITAS, CA 95035			ART UNIT 2825	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 07/27/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/659,138	BALAJI ET AL.	
	Examiner Sun J. Lin	Art Unit 2825	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 September 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 11-19 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5, 9, 10 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 6-8 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 10 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to application 10/659,138 filed on 09/10/2003. Claims 1 – 20 remain pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1 – 5, 9, 10 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,050,091 to Rubin.

4. As to Claim 1, Rubin shows and teaches the following subject matter:

- An electrical (circuit) design system – [title; abstract]; Create nodes and arcs for an electrical (circuit) design – [col. 17, line 61 – 63]; create a new cell (i.e., first new cell) for each node prototype structure which does not already exist in a database – [col. 17, line 63 – 66]; Notice that (1) a prototype electrical circuit design comprises a plurality of prototype nodes; therefore, it comprises a plurality of first cells (2) a first new cell is identified by comparing a plurality of existing old cells (i.e., second cells) already manufactured and stored in the database using DATABASE EXAMINATION 140 process – [Fig. 1];
- Record the (first) new cell and broadcast by “CHANGE BROADCAST 180” to each tool (user) – [col. 18, line 7 – 10]; Notice that the first new cell is recorded in a (first test) report for use in broadcasting to notify a client (i.e., design tool user);
- Executing design rule check on electrical circuit design by a DESIGN RULE CHECKER 70 to verify CONSTRAINT SATISFACTION 110 of a first new cell – [Fig. 1].

For reference purposes, the explanations given above in response to Claim 1 are called **[Response A]** hereinafter.

5. As to Claim 20, reasons are included in **[Response A]** given above.

6. As to Claim 2, *Rubin* shows in Fig. 1 and teaches adding the first new cell in the database (e.g., cell library) in *DATABASE CHANGE 130* process.
7. As to Claim 3, the purpose of notifying a client of a *first new cell* in a database (cell library) is to allow the client to search the database for the first new cell for use in client's circuit design.
8. As to Claim 4, upon completing manufacturing and constraint satisfaction verification, the first new cell is stored in the database (cell library) and it becomes an existing cell; therefore, it can be reclassified as one of the second cells in the database (cell library).
9. As to Claim 5, since a cell library is used for storing available manufactured cells for use in design of electrical circuit, if the first new cell is not manufactured, it should be removed from the database (cell library).
10. As to Claim 9, each new cell has its own test report (e.g., first test report for first new cell, second test report for second new cell). The comparing the second new cell in the second test report with the first new cell in the first test report is to identify their functionalities and/or similarities.
11. As to Claim 10, *Rubin* shows in Fig. 1 and teaches that only a report on a new cell, which is not a duplicate of existing manufactured cell is broadcasted to a client.

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Claims 11 – 19 are allowed. Claims 6 – 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Those claims are allowed because that the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the following subject matter:

- A method for notification of a first new cell comprise a step of transferring a first report to a server inbox prior to comparing the first report with a database comprising a plurality of second cells already manufactured in combination with other limitations as recited in **Claim 6**;
- A system comprises a *server configured to compare a first report, which is received from a first client, for a circuit design with a database comprising a plurality of second cells already manufactured and to notify a second client of a first new cell, which is used in the circuit design, in response to the first new cell not matching at least one of the second cells* in combination with other limitations as recited in **Independent Claim 11**.

Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sun J Lin whose telephone number is (571) 272 - 1899. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30AM - 6:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew S Smith can be reached on (571) 272 - 1907. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sun James Lin
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2825
July 23, 2005

